SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

editorial

Signal success of Algiers Non-Aligned Summit

THE 4th Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries opened on September 5th at the Palace of the Nations in Algiers and held its closing session on the afternoon of September 9, 1973.

In 5 days of hectic proceedings it heard numerous reports and speeches by Chiefs of State, Heads of Government or Leaders of national liberation movements on political and economic problems of the concern of the Non-Aligned countries. The imperialists' and colonialists' policy of force against the legitimate aspirations of the peoples came under violent fire from the speakers who reiterated their vigorous support to the countries engaged in the battle against imperialist oppression and exploitation in various parts of the world and against old-type and new-type colonialism.

The assembly stressed the necessity for the countries of the Third World formerly in bondage to complete their political emancipation and impel forward their economic development and strengthen their trade ties on the basis of mutual respect for national sovereignty, equality, justice and fairness.

It attached particular importance to the Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia issues and to the serious situation resulting from the US and its agents' manoeuvres which challenge the Paris and Vientiane Agreements and the Cambodian people's national rights. Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho's September 7 address was given a warm reception. In his denunciation of US - Saigon violations of their pledges, the Chairman of the NFL Presidium and Advisory Council of the PRG made it clear that "the South Vietnamese people's struggle for the US-Saigon strict implementation of the Paris Agreement is part and parcel of the common effort of the Non-Aligned countries against imperialism, old and new brands of colonialism." In response, Cuban's Premier Fidel Castro declared on the same day at the same gathering amidst thundering applause: "The recognition of the PRG of the RSVN and the support given to the Lao and Cambodian peoples and the aid granted to North Viet Nam's national reconstruction are consistent with the interests of the Non-Aligned countries."

The address of Norodom Sihanouk, Chief of the Cambodian state was also greeted with enthusiastic and sustained ovation.

DURING the Summit, de-jure *recognition was accorded to the PRG by Zambia, the Maltese Republic, Gabon and to the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia by Guana, Oman, Uganda, Zaire and Central African Republic. Houari Boumedienne, President of the Revolutionary Council and Council of the Ministers of the Democratic People's Republic of Algeria stated in emphatic terms that the 4th Non-Aligned Summit's pronouncement on behalf of the Third World would be heeded far and wide in the world and that from now on no momentous resolutions on many international issues could be taken without the Third World's participation in the debate.*

The Algiers Conference approved two declarations, one political and the other economic on international problems, and many resolutions, including one on Viet Nam and another on Cambodia. They reaffirm the Non-Aligned countries' political line and militant determination on the following crucial points: suport to the legitimate struggles of the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian poeples, call for the liberation of Arab territories illegally occupied by Israel; recovery of the Palestinian people's national rights; support to the national liberation movements of African peoples, programme of common action for economic sovereignty of all peoples; necessity of the Third World's say in the settlement of the problems of disarmament, international trade and monetary system.

The Conference has thus proved to be an important achievement of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples in their joint fight against imperialism, for their independence and freedom. It is of a great purport and will certainly have a major impact on the present and future world situation.

It may be recalled that 12 years ago, the first Non-Aligned Conference met in Belgrade (Yugoslavia), was attended by only 25 countries. This time in Algiers, nearly 100 countries were represented including 76 by their Chiefs of State and Heads of Government and 16 by Leaders of their national liberation movements. They were qualified to speak for nearly two billion people or more than one half of mankind, most of them having won independence since the end of World War II. The Algiers gathering marked a very important step forward of Asian, African and Latin American drives for national emancipation and consolidation of newly gained independence. It was not only quantitative but also qualitative in the sense that the newly-liberated people or in the process of liberation are fully aware of their solidarity and firmly resolved to take united action to conquer or complete their independence and shape for themselves a happy life, with mutual respect for national sovereignty and human dignity. The great Non-Aligned family has grown into a powerful force having successfully confronted imperialism and being capable of holding in check any fresh criminal move of any imperialist power.

The Algiers Conference displayed an irreversible trend of various liberation movements in the world which are closely linked to the universal revolutionary movement and spelled out the dismal failure of the imperialists and their hirelings' futile attempt to oppose or to split the advancing community of free men and nations.

TOGETHER with the whole Vietnamese people, the South Vietnamese warmly hail the success of the Algiers Summit. We express our heartfelt gratitude to the assembly, to the Non-Aligned governments and peoples for their support to our struggle. The recognition by the delegations of nearly 100 countries of the PRG as the only legitimate representative of South Viet Nam, in the Resolution on Viet Nam is a great source of inspiration on us and on the other hand inflicts a grave setback on the US imperialists and their Saigon strawmen, one again denounced as US henchmen and arch-offenders of international law.

Our most sincere thanks go to the brotherly Algerian people and their leaders headed by President Houari Boumedienne for the cordial hospitality accorded to Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho and the PRG delegation, for their unreserved support to our position and for numerous other tokens of solidarity with us South Vietnamese and with our Northern kith and kin.

We declare our full and complete approval of the Algiers declarations and resolutions and our unshakeable resolve to do our utmost to contribute to their implementation. To this effect, it is more than ever necessary to intensify the struggle for the strict execution of the Paris Agreement and the June 13, 1973 Joint Communiqué and particularly of the provisions on the cease-fire, return of civilian personnel and release of all political detainees as well as ensurance of the people's democratic freedoms.

SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

President Houari Boumedienne welcoming Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho at the Algiers airport

Thieu's "administrative revolution"

IN a televised address lasting more than ninety minutes on July 10, Thieu again urged for what he described as an "administrative revolution" among all public employees in the areas under his control.

The first part of this "revolution" will train the some 240,000 office personnel in politics and, chiefly, initiate them into the job of a soldier.

Graduates will be assigned to rural areas to, as Thieu put it, "pacify the country and consolidate the towns."

"Office workers must be a paramilitary force. Any dissentient will be dismissed at once", vociferated Thieu's administrative chief.

Thieu himself declared that if need be he could very well do without scores of thousands of employees.

According to estimates by the *Cong Luan* (Public Opinion) of August 15, at least 7,000 civil servants might be sacked in the process of the training.

Now that the first course has been completed and the first 6,000 graduates have been given a three weeks' "grace" to choose between going and losing their jobs, one wonders what kind of "revolution" this is.

Considering the harsh penalty with which Thieu has threatened "shirkers," his "revolution" can hardly be said to be popular. Indeed, his primary objective is to turn administrative workers into a weapon against the people's movement for peace, democracy and welfare, or more succinctly, for the strict implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. Also, he is seeking to purge his administrative apparatuses by ruthlessly eliminating anyone he may find "unco-operative," hence "undesirable." The paper *Dan Quyen* (People's Rights) pointed out as early as on April 13, that Thieu was hoping his "purifying" revolution might enable him to win the political contest. Tran Thien Khiem, the prime minister, reiterated at the inauguration of the Vung Tau school on August 1, the Saigon regime's opposition to the Viet Nam peace treaty.

What makes Thieu's "revolution" all the more unpalatable is that his newly-initiated "apostles" cannot "go to the country" without worrying a great deal about their families back in town, where with a thinning pocketbook, they have to face the soaring prices and heavy taxes, TVA included.

As a natural consequence, discontent is mounting, to the great sympathy of the public. A group of congressmen have lodged a petition with Khiem, the prime minister, urging for a revision of the "revolution", which, they said, was making life economically hard for office workers. "One has not forgotten all those high-sounding words — the 'back-to-the-country campaign,' 'all for the country,' etc. But, as a matter of fact, peasants, who live on their lands, find no use for office workers from Saigon. They have no use for the 'wisdom' of diploma-holders from abroad. What they want is people who really know how to help them and really wish to do it," the same petition said.

The press has particularly been vocal. The *Dai Dan Toc* (Great Nation) said on August 5, "Life has been completely upset for all trainees. Those who come from far-off places suffer the most, because, hard up, they have no friends to turn to. The *Dien Tin* (Telegraph) said, "One wonders if the trainees will go to the country with a joyful heart knowing that without them their families will be deprived of some extra money they could normally have earned from time to time." Announcing that some 10,000 female employees would soon go to Vung Tau, the *But Thep* (Iron Pen) commented on July 31, "Most of them have little children to raise. It is very hard for these mothers to leave their kids at home; but it is impossible to resist, because they will lose their jobs and will have no money to feed and clothe their little ones."

Criticism is increasing despite Thieu's placatory assurance that this is no "brain-washing", and his promise of a "fair treatment" both in active service and in retirement is too transparent to fool anybody.

Employees in the Saigon regime, by resisting this fraudulous "administrative revolution," are making a significant contribution to the urban movement for peace, democracy, and welfare and against a reactionary regime abetted by alien forces.

As for Thieu, far from winning this "political contest," he is courting more trouble.

N.B.

Press conference in the liberated zone
Newly-released students denouncing Thieu:
Instead of handing them over to their families, the Saigon administration returned them to the PRG, in flagrant violation of the Paris Accord

Land-grabbers punished

o During August, the liberation forces in Quang Ngai meted out due punishment to the land-grabbers intruding into the liberated areas of Binh Son, Son Tinh, Nghia Hanh, Duc Pho and Mo Duc districts. They put out of combat more than 1,100 enemy, destroyed 7 guns, 33 military vehicles, two ammo depots and large quantities of other war equipment, and seized many assorted weapons and other war means.

o On August 13, the liberation armed forces in Kien Tuong province stopped short the 12th regiment of the 7th Saigon Division in their inroad into the liberated zone in Nguyen Van Tiep canal area, wrecking ten military vehicles, including eight M.113 armour personnel carriers, killing or wounding many enemy troops.

o From August 4 to 14, the Saigon administration mustered a big force of three battalions of the 2nd Ranger regiment, the 2nd battalion of the 53rd regiment, three battalions of "civil guards" numbers 125, 52 and 253, the 63rd battalion of border Rangers and two armoured squadrons under the cover of aircraft and artillery in a massive attack on the liberated villages in Gia Lai province. The local liberation forces and guerillas knocked out one company and one platoon of Saigon troops, decimated one battalion, captured many soldiers, seized large quantities of weapons and military equipment, and drove out the rest of the assailants.

o On the morning of August 15, the liberation forces bombarded the command posts of battalions numbers 1 and 2 belonging to the 10th regiment of the Saigon army when they were being massed for a land-grabbing operation against Phu An area. On the same day, the regional forces in My Tho overran and levelled Ba Lon post, forcing Saigon troops to abandon their posts illegally set up in the liberated areas of Tan Hiep and Kinh Xang Ngang.

o The 3rd battalion (16th regiment, 9th Division) was heavily trounced on August 25 by the liberation forces when they came and illegally erected posts in the liberation area of the Cai Cao and Lai Hieu canals in Can Tho province. Later after the arrival of reinforcements, the Saigon command again deployed this battalion together with the 1st and 2nd battalions of the 16th regiment, in co-ordination with four battalions of civil guards escorted by two armoured columns, into a major land grabbing operation and had posts set up in the Giai Phong Nam canal area along the same Lai Hieu canal. On the night of August 26, the local guerillas and regional forces in Phung Hiep district (Can Tho) fiercely intercepted the intruders, did short work of two companies and the command of the 3rd battalion. At the same time, the regional forces shelled the illegally erected camps of the Saigon army and intercepted the relief

force killing many troops and destroying one M.113 armoured vehicle, forcing one Saigon company out of the liberated area of Quang Phong in Phung Hiep district.

o On August 22, the regional forces and guerillas in Phuoc Long province intercepted the enemy and wiped out 30 troops, destroyed two military vehicles and one ton of ammo, and captured many weapons and a lot of military equipment when Saigon troops trespassed the liberated area a Tuy Duc crossroads and its vicinities.

o On August 20 and 25, Binh Dinh province liberation forces beat off incursions into the liberated areas of Tam Quan, Dong Son and My Loi, wiping out 65 adverse men and destroying a military vehicle.

o From August 19 to 26, 1973, the guerilla and regional liberation forces in Quang Da province intercepted Saigon troops and wiped out nearly 100 of them while they were engaged in a land-grabbing action on the liberated areas of Duy Xuyen and Dai Loc districts.

o On August 25, 26 and 27, the Saigon administration hurled the 44th and 45th regiments into more than 30 encroaching attacks on the liberated zone of Trung Nghia, Ngo Thanh, Peak 674 (Kon tum), Peak 865, and Hill Ca Roc west of Chu Thoi (Gia Lai), Under air and artillery cover, the land grabbers pushed deeply into the said liberated areas. Meeting with fierce riposte from the liberation forces in the High Plateaux, they had to flee, leaving behind many dead.

o From August 24 to 27, the liberation forces in Thua Thien province took a toll of many troops of the Saigon "civil guard" battalions number 128 and 112 during the latter's foray into the liberated zone to the Northwest of Khe Thai and Back Ma mountains.

World youth raises an accusing finger

"You would be our distinguished guest," said Angela Davis to little Lien, the sole survivor of My Lai

AUGUST 3. The Tenth World Youth Festival entered its seventh day. Hundreds of newsmen, TV reporters, cameramen and photographers were crowding around a young girl who was taking the floor in the vast hall of the Viet Nam National Club.

"... They nailed my fingers and exposed me to the blinding glare of a 1,000-watt electric bulb. Then I was bound up and pushed into a pond, and my torturers, working the free end of the rope, pulled me out of the water and dropped me down into it again, repeating the same action for a long while. When I was practically bursting with water they laid me down on the ground and trod on my stomach with their hobnailed shoes. I vomited water and blood. The next day they hang me to the ceiling by my ankles and gave me prolonged electric shocks..."

Her voice faltered into a hush. Her face, deadly pale and deeply creased, stood out in the cameras' dazzling flashes. Time seemed to stop fleeing for a moment in the vast hall. When was this? The past or the present? Where had this happened? In Manthausen? In Buchenwald? In Auschwitz? No, in prisons in South Viet Nam under the US-Thieu regime, from which the girl, 27-year-old Le Thi Do, had just escaped. She had spent four years and a half in the prisons of Nha Trang, Thu Duc, and Tan Hiep.

At the press centre, the same morning, another ex-prisoner from South Viet Nam, Nguyen Thi Chinh, told some 200 newspapers' representatives about the torture she had been put to in Hoi An.

Two French school-teachers — Z.P. Debris and André Menras who had also been imprisoned by the Saigon regime, produced photographs and letters to substantiate Do's statements. They said that it was lucky for a prisoner not to lose a leg or an arm through the savage torture, and Do's case was a rare one.

And 200,000 other political prisoners — people like Chinh and Do — are languishing in the over 1,000 prisons and detention camps known or unknown in South Viet Nam.

The hearts of the Festival's 25,000 participants coming from all parts of the world to meet in Anti-Imperialist Solidarity, in Peace and Friendship, for a moment, seem to stop pulsating. Everybody realized that his joy could not be complete as long as 200,000 people, mostly students and youths, were still groaning in US-Thieu shackles, as long as man's dignity was utterly disregarded, as long as Jungle Law still ruled at least over one part of the world.

At the Festival rostrum SVN Liberation Army Heroine Ta Thi Kieu spoke for the youth of South Viet Nam. "Many people are dying a slow death at the hands of butchers trained and paid by the US. I appeal to all mothers, wives, sisters, young people and students all over the world to continue supporting us so that the lives of tens of thousands of people under Saigon detention can be saved."

And she got instant response from the youth of the world. The whole audience was like a volcano of wrath. Voices stopped singing and started chanting militant slogans. The Trial of Imperialism was a real storm of protest, "Down with US imperialism!" "Down with Nguyen Van Thieu!" "Release 200,000 South Vietnamese political prisoners now!"

A whole day was devoted to the collection of signatures to the many petitions for the release of political prisoners in South Viet Nam. Liberation Army Hero Phan Hanh Son, carrying an RSVN flag in his hands and — on his back — a placard demanding the release of the 200,000 South Vietnamese patriots, wove his way through crowds streaming into Alexander Platz to offer their signatures. Elsewhere at the Viet Nam National Club, the Centre of International Solidarity and the Centre for Denunciation of Imperialist Crimes, there were also long lines of petitioners.

J.P. Debris and André Menras, two great friends of the detained South Vietnamese patriots, had come all the way from France via Italy, the US and Japan. They said: "We avail ourselves of the Berlin Festival to make an appeal to all the youths of all countries in the world who have justice and peace at heart, to people who have always upheld the Vietnamese cause, to intensify more strongly than ever before their militant action to save the 200,000 South Vietnamese patriots now threatened with extermination... We address this appeal particularly to the American people, to the youth of America, to tell them that while Americans live at home in comfort, thousands of Vietnamese mothers are waiting for their sons and daughters, and thousands of wives are waiting for their husbands and that the hope to see them ever again is diminishing with every passing day."

And they renewed their promise they had made to their former prison-mates: "We will continue the denunciation of the crimes of the American imperialists and their lackeys until the last prisoner is released. We cannot allow ourselves a single moment of rest between now and the time when all of you can rejoin your wives, fathers, mothers and children in a peaceful, independent and reunified Viet Nam..."

And Angela Davis, that glorious daughter of the American people, said that what was being done in Saigon prisons was another crime perpetrated by US imperialism against the people of Viet Nam, and that the young people of America were dutybound to make up for it and the many other crimes.

Statements were issued by the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the International Union of Students, and many delegations demanding that the US-Thieu administration return all the political prisoners without further delay. That of the Japanese delegation said "We, the more than 350 Japanese youths and students at the Festival, consider it a major task to take immediate actions in solidarity with the young people of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia. The detention of 200,000 South Vietnamese patriots makes drastic measures imperative."

The Australian delegation declared its deep concern for the lives of the 200,000 political prisoners detained by the Saigon administration, and insisted on the immediate release of these prisoners and a better Saigon prison regime.

The delegations of the Soviet Union, the GDR, Hungary, France, Italy, Yugoslavia, South Africa, the US, etc., decided to set up national committees for the release of South Vietnamese political prisoners and also an international centre for the same purpose. The Yugoslav delegation, calling for the establishment of such organisations, said the Yugoslav youth would take the lead in the movement.

Berlin was smiling in the warmth of sunshine and friendship. Nothing remained of the Nazis, who lorded it over there some thirty years ago.

Yet, in certain parts of South Viet Nam today, a number of Hitler's followers can still be found. But who can say they will not meet with their end one day as they did here.

He that sows the wind shall reap the whirlwind.

X.S.

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A Finnish youth signing a petition for the release of political prisoners in SVN at the Berlin Festival

Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho at Algiers Summit Conference

NGUYEN HUU THO, Chairman of the SVN NFL Central Committee and President of the PRG Advisory Council, on September 7 spoke at the Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Nations.

He mounted the platform of the meeting hall at the Castle of Nations amidst stormy applause from all the Heads of State and delegates present.

Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho stated:

"Since the first Summit Conference of Belgrade, especially since the Lusaka Conference, our Non-Aligned movement has made long strides forward. The numerous members of the big family of Non-Aligned countries have successfully undergone numerous tests and are marching on the road of consolidating national independence and building a prosperous life. Many countries have repulsed and frustrated the insidious plots of the imperialists designed to reimpose the colonial yoke. US imperialism, the last fortress of the imperialist forces, suffered many heavy defeats in Viet Nam, Indochina and many other places in the world, and is weakening irremediably. Right in the heart of the United States, the people's

President Houari Boumedienne talking with Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho

credibility gap with regard to the regime is deepening. The Non-Aligned Nations Foreign Ministers' Conference held in Georgetown in August 1972 reflected the firm will of the Third World countries to take their destinies fully in their own hands. This is a new tendency of our epoch.

The South Vietnamese people and the RSVN PRG are highly elated at the ever bigger successes of the movement of Non-Aligned nations and regard them as a strong encouragement to their just struggle.

The Vietnamese people will always remember the approval and strong support the Non-Aligned countries have given to Viet Nam.

In furtherance of the sacred Testament of President Ho Chi Minh, the beloved leader of the entire Vietnamese nation, the RSVN PRG delegation wishes to express from this rostrum the sincere gratitude of Viet Nam for the contributions made by the peoples and governments of the Non-Aligned countries to its glorious victory."

Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho went on: "The Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, solemnly recognized by the Act of the International Conference on Viet Nam, embodies the great victory of the Vietnamese people. It recognizes the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people, confirms the US commitment to respect the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, and its commitment to withdraw completely from South Viet Nam and to discontinue its military involvement or interference in the internal affairs of South Viet Nam. The South Vietnamese people decide their own destiny. The national interests of our people require a full application of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. This also conforms with the interests of world peace. That is why it is the unswerving policy of the RSVN PRG and also of the DRVN Government to strictly respect and scrupulously implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

The Paris Agreement on Viet Nam is a severe blow to the neo-colonialist policy of the US and to the sordid interests of the handful of militarists, henchmen of the US, in Saigon. That is why the US and the Nguyen Van Thieu administration opposed the signing of the Agreement in October 1972, and after having been forced to sign it, they have violated in a systematic and very serious manner many essential provisions of the Agreement.

... From the attitude of the two sides in implementing the Paris Agreement, the world public has seen clearly the following truth:

— The RSVN PRG has always seriously implemented the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, lived up to the most earnest aspirations of the South Vietnamese people, and is the sole legitimate representative of the South Vietnamese people, whereas the Saigon administration has feverishly opposed the Paris Agreement, runs counter to the most earnest aspirations of the South Vietnamese people, and serves merely as an instrument for the neo-colonialist policy of the United States.

— The Paris Agreement on Viet Nam solemnly recognized by the International Conference, is an international judicial document. The more stubbornly the Saigon administration violates and sabotages the Paris Agreement and piles up its crimes, the more clearly it reveals its illegality. The fact that the RSVN PRG strictly respects and scrupulously implements the Paris Agreement shows beyond any doubt that the RSVN PRG is the legal representative of the South Vietnamese people.

This explains why the entire South Vietnamese people are opposing the Nguyen Van Thieu administration ever more strongly. Now, not only the broad masses of the people but more and more members of the Saigon administration and army are turning their thoughts to the RSVN PRG with much confidence and hope.

The South Vietnamese people's present struggle for the strict application of the Paris Agreement, is an inseparable part of the common struggle of the Non-Aligned nations against imperialism and old and new colonialism. We earnestly call on the governments and peoples of the big families of Non-Aligned countries to strongly support the Vietnamese people's struggle for the strict application by the US government and the Saigon administration of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and the Joint Communiqué of June 13, 1973, because Viet Nam's demand fully conforms with the noble goal of the Non-Aligned movement, which is peace, independence, democracy and social progress."

After speaking of the struggle in Asia, Africa and Latin America against imperialism and old and new colonialism, Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho continued:

"Since the conclusion of World War Two, war has not broken out between the imperialist countries and the socialist system. Instead, most of the wars have been unleashed by the imperialists against countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. These are colonialist and aggressive wars launched against the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia, Korea (1950-1953), Algeria (1954-1962), the Arab people in the Middle East, Mozambique, Angola, Bissau Guinea, Cape Verde, Cuba (1961), Dominica (1965)...

To repress the peoples in these areas, imperialism has set up military blocs on the American continent, in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Ocean and installed thousands of military bases across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Obviously, imperialism and new and old colonialism are the common enemy of the peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

To the peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America, peace and national independence are closely bound as shown in the Indochinese countries, in the Middle East, in Angola, in Mozambique, in Algeria formerly, and many other countries. Peace without independence and freedom is peace of colonialism, under the occupation by aggressor troops. Only independence and freedom can bring about a genuine peace. That is why the victorious struggle of the countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America in the past years for their national rights have been big contributions to the cause of defending a stable and durable peace in the world. We are determined to make Asia, Africa and Latin America areas of independent countries, without military alliances and without military bases. This is a firm guarantee for world peace.

Though having been compelled to withdraw from many areas, imperialism, obdurate by nature, has not yet given up its neo-colonialist design. It continues exploiting and plundering the rich natural resources of the Third World through the super-national capitalist firms, through its price and tax policy, and its monetary system... It continues to use economic blockade as a lever to pressurize those who refuse to bow to their orders, so as to maintain the Non-Aligned countries in underdevelopment, and keep us within its neo-colonial orbit. Thus, imperialism remains the main obstacle to the advance of the Third World, especially now that the Non-Aligned countries are striving toward the minimum standard of living. We are resolved to defend our national independence and sovereignty in the political as well as economic and cultural fields and oppose the US neo-colonialist policy in all forms.

We resolutely support the Non-Aligned countries in their struggle to regain their national riches, in the nationalization of monopolistic firms of imperialism, and participate in the settlement of international economic questions.

In the economic development, the Non-Aligned countries rely mainly on their own forces, at the same time, give due consideration to the all-round co-operation with the other Non-Aligned countries and with developed countries without any political conditions attached and on the basis of mutual benefit.

The RSVN PRG welcomes and sincerely thanks the Non-Aligned countries and all the other countries in the world which have, within their capacities, supported the Vietnamese people in the healing of wounds of war and in national reconstruction. The RSVN PRG sincerely wishes to establish all-round economic cooperation with Non-Aligned countries and other countries on the basis of respect for each other's national independence and sovereignty, without interference in each other's internal affairs, and mutual benefit.

The struggle of the Non-Aligned countries for peace, independence, democracy and social progress is a long and arduous one against a ruthless, cruel and stubborn enemy. To achieve our noble objective in this historic fight, it is most essential that we have the iron-like determination to carry through the struggle against our common enemies, from the ringleader — the big and rich US imperialism — to other lesser enemies of all sizes such as Israel, Portugal, the racists in South Africa, etc.

Another factor of decisive significance is that the Non-Aligned countries which comprise more than half of the human race and possess abundant riches and age-old cultures, if closely united, will be an invincible force.

Another factor of no less importance is the solidarity of the Non-Aligned countries with the socialist countries and with all the other countries and forces opposing imperialism and colonialism.

In the struggle against imperialism and colonialism, solidarity makes strength, solidarity makes victory."

After reaffirming the stand of the South Vietnamese people of constantly siding with the Asian, African, and Latin American peoples in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress, Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho said:

"The signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam has ushered in a new situation in South Viet Nam with new conditions very favourable to the struggle of our people. But we still have to settle numerous and heavy sequels of the war and at the same time to face innumerable difficulties and complexities caused by the Saigon administration.

If ever you visit our vast liberated area, you will see with your own eyes lunar sight where the soil was upturned by bombs and shells and where no house and no tree are left standing. At some places of our forests, not only the green has been destroyed but even no bird song can be heard. At the same time you will also see our compatriots working with extraordinary persistence to restore each inch of land to plant rice and build temporary dwellings. Each day, from death and destruction, life has been re-emerging amid merry songs under the blue sky.

After thirty years of unremitting struggle, we can say that the 4,000-year-old fighting tradition of our nation has taught us that we must not only resolve to fight and to win but also keep a firm belief in ourselves, in the inevitable triumph of justice.

The colonial conquerors have built their empires that occupied three-fifths of the globe and thought that they would rule for ever the Asian, African and Latin American countries.

But the national liberation movement has been surging up like a hurricane and within only 30 years has shaken to the root their empire which they had spent many centuries to build. If within only a few decades, colonialism was in the main liquidated and a series of countries came into being which have reshaped the world map, then in the coming decades neo-colonialism will surely be thrown into the darkness of oblivion. The just struggle of the Non-Aligned countries will certainly win splendid victory. The just struggle of the Vietnamese people will certainly win splendid victory.

On that basis, I firmly believe that the voice of this conference from heroic Algeria will be the voice of our era and will resound for ever in the history of the nations."

RESOLUTION ON VIET NAM

THE 4th Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned countries held in the capital of the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic adopted the following resolution on Viet Nam:

The 4th Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned countries held in Algiers from September 5 to 9, 1973,

— recalling the solutions adopted in the Lusaka Summit Conference and in the Georgetown Conference,

— taking note with satisfaction of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam, the Act of the International Conference on Viet Nam and the Joint Communiqué of June 13, 1973,

— seriously concerned about the violations by the United States and the Saigon administration of the fundamental provisions of the Agreement and of the Act of the International Conference on Viet Nam, violations which have seriously aggravated the situation in this region of the world since the entry into force of the Agreement,

1. Welcomes the signing of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam and the Act of the International Conference on Viet Nam and considers the victory of the Vietnamese people as a common victory of the great family of the Non-Aligned countries and of all the peoples struggling against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, for peace, independence, national rights, democracy and social progress,

2. Welcomes the big efforts made by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the sole authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people, in the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and the Act of the International Conference on Viet Nam,

3. Demands that the United States and the Saigon administration immediately and definitively cease their violations of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and seriously carry out all that they have undertaken to do, especially the provisions concerning the ceasefire, the release of hundreds of thousands of political detainees and the guarantee of democratic liberties to the people,

4. Calls on the Non-Aligned countries to give and intensify their support to the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government in all fields, political, moral and diplomatic, in its struggle for achieving a peaceful, independent, neutral and democratic South Viet Nam, proceeding to the peaceful reunification of the country and to give every material aid for the reconstruction of Viet Nam.

ALGIERS CONFERENCE'S POLITICAL DECLARATION ON VIET NAM, CAMBODIA AND LAOS

IN its political declaration, the Algiers Conference stated the following with regard to the questions of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos:

— The Conference welcomes the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and considers this as a common victory of the Vietnamese people and the peoples of the Non-Aligned countries and all the forces in the world standing for peace and freedom. The Conference expresses its concern over the refusal of the US and the Saigon administration to strictly implement the Paris Agreement.

— The Conference demands the immediate cessation of all American involvement and interference in the internal affairs of the Indochinese peoples and respect for the right to self-determination of the Indochinese peoples, condition for the establishment of a genuine peace in this region.

— The Conference of Heads of State or Government leaders calls on its member states to give their diplomatic support to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the only authentic representative of the South Viet Nam people, and to contribute to the reconstruction of war-ravaged Viet Nam.

— The Conference welcomes the victory of the Cambodian people who have made US stop bombing their country and condemns the obstinacy of the United States in their policy of aggression which, at present, is manifested in its support of all kinds for the Phnom Penh regime.

— The Conference condemns the military intervention of the US and its allies in Cambodia, as well as their interference in the internal affairs of this country.

— The participants of the Conference declare that the only legitimate and legal government of Cambodia is the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia headed by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, and urgently ask for recognition of this Government.

— The Conference welcomes the signing of the Vientiane Agreement and wishes that the parties proceed as soon as possible to the signing of protocols with a view to establishing a coalition government in Laos.

The strict application of the Vientiane Agreement is indispensable to the restoration, in a concrete and durable manner, of peace and national concord, in conformity with the legitimate aspirations of the Lao people.

— The Conference particularly welcomes the determination of the countries in this region to continue pursuing a policy of Non-Alignment.

Minister Nguyen Thi Binh and the PRG delegation at the Foreign Ministers' Preparatory Conference of the Non-Aligned countries

On the co-existence of two South Vietnamese administrations

(Continued)

THE PRG, STAUNCH UPHOLDER OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S...

The PRG has been putting in effect a foreign policy of peace and neutrality. Article 12 of its 12-point Program of Action stipulates: "Enlist the sympathy, support and aid of all countries and progressive people in the world, including the American people, for the South Vietnamese people's struggle against US aggression, for national salvation.

Wholeheartedly support the national independence movements of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples fighting against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism.

Effectively co-ordinate action with the American people's protest movement against the US imperialists' aggression in Viet Nam; actively support the legitimate effort of the Afro-American for their fundamental national rights.

Maintain friendly relations with, and carry out, a good-neighbourly policy regarding the Kingdom of Cambodia on the basis of respect for her independence, sovereignty and neutrality, recognize and pledge respect for the territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia within her present borders; follow a good neighbourly policy toward the Kingdom of Laos on the basis of respect for the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos (1).

Establish diplomatic, economic and cultural relations with all countries, irrespective of political and social regime, including the United States, in accordance with the five principles of peaceful coexistence: mutual respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, peaceful coexistence. Accept aid, with no political strings attached, from any country, in capital, technique and specialized services.

Refrain from joining any military alliance with foreign countries; allow no foreign country to maintain military bases, troops and military personnel on the South Vietnamese territory, refuse the protection of any country or military alliance."

The PRG foreign policy of peace and neutrality was time and again re-affirmed in various documents issued by it: the 5-point position, the 7-point initiative, the proposed overall solution to the South Viet Nam problem. It finally found expression in the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, the Act of the International Conference on Viet Nam and the June 13, 1973 Joint Communiqué. It has enjoyed warm support from the peoples and governments of many countries.

Many countries have recognized, and established diplomatic relations with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN. The Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba presented his credentials in the liberated zone as early as 1969. In June and July this year the envoys of sixteen countries were accredited by Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho: Algeria, Korea, China, the Soviet Union, Poland, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mauritania, Albania, Bulgaria, Mongolia, Romania, Czechoslovakia, the Kingdom of Cambodia, Mali and Guinea; and the Chargé d'Affaires of Yougoslavia by Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh.

So far the PRG has signed with China, the Soviet Union and Mongolia economic accords by which, in the spirit of lofty internationalism and wholehearted support, these friendly countries are to grant free aid to the South Vietnamese people so that they can rapidly heal their war wounds and restore life to normal. Cuba and Bulgaria have concluded cultural agreements with the PRG in order to strengthen mutual assistance and further tighten friendship bonds.

The PRG has opened Information Bureaus in Sweden, Norway, Denmark and France. In Djakarta, Indonesia, it has a permanent office with diplomatic status.

Its foreign policy of peace and neutrality is totally consistent with the interests and objectives of the Non-Aligned countries. This has been most clearly demonstrated by the resolution of the Georgetown Conference recognizing the PRG as a full member. The resolution was a judicious appraisal of its fine, progressive nature, a *de facto* recognition of its legality, a *de jure* and *de facto* recognition of its decisive role in the development of the South Vietnamese society, of its status as the authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people.

Right from the outset, the PRG was an indispensable negotiating party to all conferences on South Viet Nam. The Paris Conference on Viet Nam showed that the PRG was not only one of its indispensable members, but also one with consequential initiatives that made the conference progress. No doubt, many provisions of the Paris Agreement, the International Act and the Joint Communiqué on Viet Nam reflect the spirit of its various concrete proposals. Together with the DRVN Government, the PRG actively contributed to the drafting of the Paris Agreement and its Protocols that a whole process of struggle — that of the Paris Conference itself — eventually forced the US and the Saigon administration to accept. The role played by the PRG at the bargaining table proved it to be the authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people, one who, with might and main and firm resolve and in concert with the DRVN, upheld the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese. The whole world felt greatly gratified when PRG Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh and DRVN Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh signed their names beside those of their US and Saigon counterparts. That historical moment brought out a fact of great importance: the PRG, a signatory to the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, held a position and played a role equal to those of the other signatories.

It also implied that the representative of the United States government, by his act, recognized the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam as the Geneva Agreements had done in 1954.

Since the signing of the Paris Accord, the role of the PRG has become still more obvious in the struggle for its implementation. The PRG issued orders to its armed forces to strictly and thoroughly carry out the cease-fire, and returned on schedule all the captured US and Saigon military and civilian personnel as provided for by Article 8 of the Paris Accord and the related protocol. At the Two-Party Joint Military Commission as at the Four-Party Joint Military Commission earlier, the PRG Military Delegation has never ceased putting forward fair and sensible proposals intended to ensure a thorough and strict implementation of the cease-fire, to complete the return of captured military and civilian personnel, to ensure democratic liberties for the people and proceed toward the settlement of all South Viet Nam's internal political problems.

At the Consultative Conference of the two South Vietnamese parties in Paris, the PRG Delegation has made a series of suggestions to impel its work. At the 8th session held on April 25, it advanced an important six-point proposal to:

1) end the hostilities at once and strictly abide by all the provisions of the Paris Agreement regarding a steady and indefinite cease-fire so as to maintain a stable and enduring peace in Viet Nam;

2) immediately return all civilian and military personnel captured in South Viet Nam;

3) ensure the South Vietnamese people's democratic liberties;

4) set up the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord;

5) hold free and democratic elections in South Viet Nam and

6) settle the issue of Vietnamese armed forces in South Viet Nam.

On June 28, 1973, through its delegation to the La Celle Saint Cloud Conference once again the PRG proposed that the two South Vietnamese parties agree upon basic regulations guaranteeing democratic liberties to the people and pledge to immediately enforce in the respective zones those basic regulations and take practical steps to ensure their immediate and thorough implementation.

The above proposals of the PRG are measures of prime urgency necessary to guarantee a strict and serious implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

They throw light on the will to abide by the Paris Agreement, sincerity and good will of the PRG which always puts national interests above everything else and complies with the earnest aspirations and urgent requirements of the various popular segments in the South and of our people throughout the country. They meet the interests of peace of Asian and world peoples as well as the desire for independence, liberty, and genuine peace and neutrality of the peoples of the large family of Non-Aligned countries.

The PRG's proposals are concrete fair and sensible initiatives of importance, capable of halting for good the booming of guns, to bring about a stable and enduring peace, normalize the people's life and rapidly solve South Viet Nam's internal problems. They are the logic continuation of the struggle for the genuine right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people and the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people as a whole.

The Paris Agreement on Viet Nam has ushered in for the people of South Viet Nam a new stage of struggle for the consolidation of their newly-won independence, freedom and peace, and at the same time for rapidly healing war wounds, stabilizing their life, rehabilitating and developing the country's economy into an independent and prosperous one in which the restoration of agricultural production, handicraft and small industry and the circulation of commodities between various areas to improve the people's living standard, play a key part.

The PRG avocates recognition and preservation on the whole of the right to land-ownership that has been or will be distributed to the peasants, including our Northern countrymen forced to come South, those resettled by the Saigon administration and officers and men of the Saigon army who have gone back to their former places of residence. It stands for the protection of the legitimate right to land-ownership of plantation owners, rich peasants, the church, pagodas and temples.

It favours a radical solution to unemployment, a rational wage and allowance system and work and rest regime, social welfare, and better working and living conditions for the workers and labouring people. Conflicts between employers and workers will be settled through negotiations in the spirit of reconciliation so as to boost production and ensure decent living conditions for the working people.

The PRG encourages industrial and commercial undertakings, development of industry and economic exchanges between town and country, between plains and highlands.

It always respects the right to private ownership and free enterprise and encourages overseas Vietnamese national's investments in home ventures as a contribution to national reconstruction, it encourages Vietnamese residents abroad and foreign capitalists to make investment in capital and technique to help the rehabilitation and reconstruction of South Viet Nam's economy on the basis of respect for our people's independence and sovereignty, and for the jurisdiction of our democratic state.

The PRG is for the re-establishment of economic relations between North and South, expansion of trade and scientific and technical co-operation with foreign countries. and is ready to accept economic and technical aid from all countries without political strings attached.

At present the revolutionary power, at all levels is leading the people in a stubborn battle to safeguard peace, defend the liberated zone and scrupulously implement the Paris Agreement, while mobilizing, stimulating and helping them carry out the aforesaid economic policy step by step in order to impel forward the South Vietnamese revolution, to national reconstruction and improvement of the people's living standard.

The power of the PRG lies in its policies and their implementation. The fact that the South Vietnamese people are striving to make good war devastation and build the liberated zone into centres for the exercise of the revolutionary power in every aspect, and the changes occurring in this zone that the ambassadors and journalists of many countries have been able to witness, are evidence enough that the PRG and the liberation forces control extensive areas in South Viet Nam. That is an important factor in assessing its effectiveness.

(To be continued)

HUYNH VAN LY

(1) *The document dated from 1969 when there was not yet the Vientiane Agreement on Laos.*

Viet Nam August Revolution and National Days marked

A grand meeting was held in Hanoi at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall on Sept. 1 to celebrate the 28th anniversary of the August Revolution and the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

This is the first time these two big anniversaries were held after the great victory of the Vietnamese people in their anti-US war for national salvation.

The Ba Dinh Conference Hall was brightly adorned with flags and flowers. Three red banderols hung across the hall bearing three slogans in golden capitals: "Warmly Welcome the Great Victory of the Vietnamese People in their Anti-US War for National Salvation!", "Acting upon President Ho Chi Minh's sacred Testament, let's resolutely build a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic and prosperous Viet Nam, thus making the worthiest contributions to the world's peoples' revolutionary cause!" and "People throughout the country, let's uphold revolutionary heroism and determination in the struggle for the strict implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and against all schemes and acts in violation of the Agreement by the US imperialists and the Saigon administration!"

Above the rostrum, hung against a green velvet background were the national flags and the portrait of President Ho Chi Minh, the beloved and respected leader of the Vietnamese nation and the founder of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Present on the occasion were members of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, the Council of Ministers, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee, and representatives of various political parties and mass organizations, of the nationalities and religious circles, and of the armed forces and the Hanoi population. Members of the diplomatic corps and many foreign guests were also present.

All the participants gave a standing ovation to the members of the Presidium of the meeting who moved onto the rostrum. They included leaders of the Party and State: President Ton Duc Thang, First Secretary of the VNWP CC Le Duan, Chairman of the DRVN NA Standing Committee Truong Chinh, Premier Pham Van Dong, etc.

Warm applause swept the hall as Chairman Truong Chinh opened the meeting and introduced Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, Chairman of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and Chairman of the Advisory Council to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. En route to Algiers as head of the delegation of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government to the Summit Conference of Non-Aligned countries, he was stopping over in Hanoi and attended the meeting.

Following the opening speech by Chairman Truong Chinh, who laid particular stress on the great significance of this year's celebrations of the two historic days, Premier Pham Van Dong went to the rostrum amidst long applause.

In his important speech, the DRVN Premier noted that the Vietnamese people today celebrates the Revolution and National Days at a moment when Viet Nam's great patriotic fight against US aggression had won an epoch-making victory. He said the Vietnamese people had over the past twenty eight years fought unremittingly in order to preserve freedom and independence, safeguard the gains of the August Revolution and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the first People's Democratic State in Southeast Asia, and are now resolved to achieve the independence and freedom of the nation and build socialism successfully.

Premier Pham Van Dong pointed out the great importance of the signing of the Paris Peace Agreement, and declared: To the Vietnamese people, the DRVN Government and the RSVN PRG, to strictly respect and scrupulously implement the Paris Agreement is not only our duty but also a great policy because the Paris Agreement is consistent with our very fundamental national interests and the trend of the world today. Nevertheless, while respecting and implementing the Paris Agreement, we must carry out a persistent, uncompromising and resolute struggle against all schemes and acts violating the Agreement.

He then cited the main violations by the United States and the Saigon administration of various provisions of the Paris Agreement which they had undertaken to respect and apply, and declared that this is an indictment to world opinion against the violations by the US and the Saigon administration of the Paris Agreement.

On the occasion of the DRVN National Day, Premier Pham Van Dong extended his warmest congratulations to the fraternal Lao and Cambodian peoples, and wished them yet greater victories.

He then dealt with the achievements recorded by the people of North Viet Nam since the restoration of peace. He outlined the urgent task of rehabilitating and developing the national economy on a large scale and at a high tempo, steadily leading small production toward big-scale socialist production in all branches of the national economy, first of all in agriculture. He said the immediate task is to rapidly heal the wounds of war and quickly stabilize the life and rehabilitate and develop production, while thinking out and making preparations, for the building of the material and technical foundation of socialism according to a long-term plan. In order to build socialism in North Viet Nam, the Premier said, it is necessary to carry out the three revolutions (revolution of production relations, technical revolution, and ideo-cultural revolution), improve the management of State affairs, enhance the socialist legal system, and stimulate the patriotic emulation movement.

Premier Pham Van Dong devoted part of his speech to the success of the recent visit to a number of socialist countries by the Viet Nam Workers' Party and Government delegation. By sending a delegation to visit and thank the peoples of friendly countries, our Party, Government and people once again set store by the support and assistance of the world's people, which is an event of great significance in the present world. Pham Van Dong pointed out the close ties between the revolutionary struggle of the Vietnamese people and that of the world's people.

He warmly welcome the fine success of the 10th Congress of the Communist Party of China. He heartily wished the Vietnamese people's friends on the five continents many new victories in their struggle and wished the forthcoming Summit Conference of Non-Aligned countries in Algiers great success.

The Vietnamese people, he concluded, are resolved to struggle to preserve lasting peace, complete independence and democracy in the South, promote socialist construction in the North, realize the peaceful reunification of the country and build a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic and prosperous Viet Nam, thus making ever bigger contributions to the revolutionary cause of the world's people.

Amidst resounding applause, President Nguyen Huu Tho went to the rostrum to deliver his speech. On behalf of the entire South Vietnamese people, the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam he extended his warmest congratulations to the entire people and the leaders of the Party, State and Fatherland Front of North Viet Nam.

Dealing with the great victory of the Vietnamese people, Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho said: The great victory of epochal significance of the Vietnamese people's resistance to US aggression for national salvation, is that of a correct and creative political and military line, an independent and sovereign line for external relations of the Vietnamese revolution; that of the strength of unity of the Vietnamese nation as a whole, of the South and the North of one mind and standing shoulder to shoulder, of the will for indomitable struggle, a fine tradition of our nation formed during the history of thousands of years of national construction and national defence; that of the strength of militant solidarity among the peoples of the three Indochinese countries whose destinies and struggles have been bound together by the realities of history; that of the sympathy, support and assistance of the socialist countries, the freedom-loving countries and the world's peoples including the progressive people in the United States.

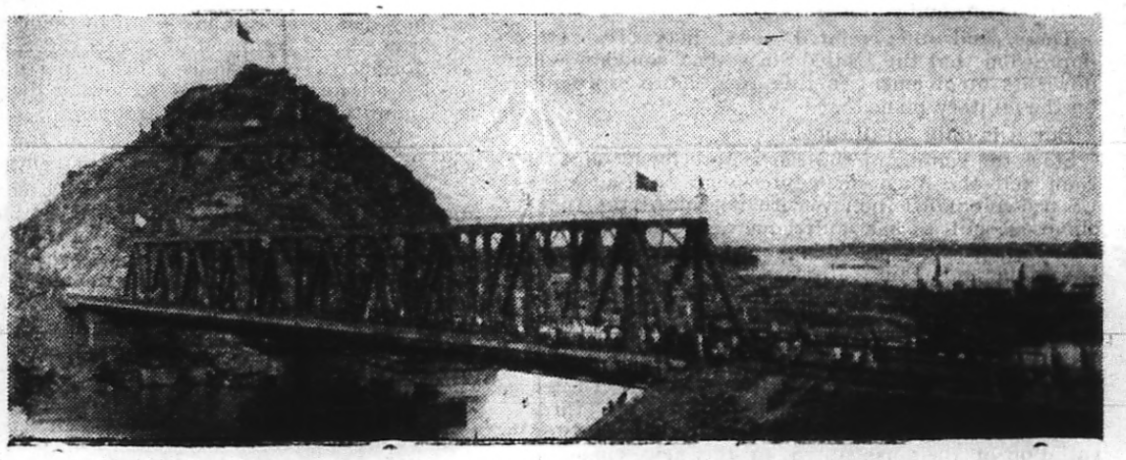
Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho went on: After the signing of the Paris Agreement, in the new situation, united around the NFL and the PRG, the people and combatants in South Viet Nam, bringing into full play the victory already recorded, have marched forward with enthusiasm, carrying on their revolutionary struggle to force the US and the Saigon administration to strictly implement the Paris Agreement and the June 13, 1973 Joint Communiqué. Their goal is to win back and preserve a lasting peace, achieve independence and democracy, and national concord, and a better life for the people, and proceed toward the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.

He said that experiences over the past half-year have proved that this struggle may be long, hard and complicated but will surely win. The entire South Vietnamese people and their combatants pledge themselves to the North Vietnamese people and combatants to enhance their unity under the glorious banner of the NFL and the PRG, develop the tradition of staunch and indomitable struggle, the spirit of self-reliance and self-support, constantly heighten their vigilance, persist in the revolutionary struggle and fulfil satisfactorily the very important task in the new stage of the revolution, attaining at all costs this goal: to build a peaceful, independent, democratic, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam, and proceed toward the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland, thereby contributing, together with the people throughout the country, to materialize the last wish of the Great President Ho Chi Minh: "to build a peaceful, reunified, independent, democratic and prosperous Viet Nam, and make a worthy contribution to the world revolution."

The meeting hall again resounded with long applause and all the participants stood up when Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho concluded his speech and tightly hugged President Ton Duc Thang.

Concluding the meeting, Chairman Truong Chinh recalled the tasks of the Vietnamese people in the new stage and expressed thanks to the socialist countries and other nations, for their sympathy and support in many aspects to the just struggle of the Vietnamese people.

The grand meeting wound up with the audience singing "Liberate the South" and "Unity makes Strength."



The Dragon Jaw bridge completely repaired and reopened to traffic on the 28th anniversary of the August Revolution

CUBAN PARTY AND GOVERNMENT DELEGATION ARRIVES IN HANOI

AT the invitation of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, a delegation of the Communist Party of Cuba and the Cuban Revolutionary Government led by Fidel Castro Ruz, First Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and Premier of the Cuban Revolutionary Government, arrived in Hanoi on Sept. 12 on an official friendship visit to the DRVN.

The delegation includes Fidel Castro Ruz, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, Premier of the Cuban Revolutionary Government, Head of the delegation; Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, Vice-Premier of the Cuban Revolutionary Government, in charge of External Relations, and Chairman of the Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Collaboration; Osmany Cienfuegos, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee; Mme Melba Hernandez, President of the Cuban Committee of Solidarity with Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos; and Raul Valdes Vivo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba to the DRVN.

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES

To Madame Hartensia Bussi Allende

We learn with a profound grief of the murder of President Salvador Allende Gossens — a fearless revolutionary, the beloved and venerated leader of the Chilean people and a very close friend of the South Vietnamese people — by the Chilean reactionaries and the US imperialists in a recent anti-democratic and anti-constitutional coup d'état.

The death of President Salvador Allende Gossens is a great loss for you Madame and your family, for the Chilean people and the Government of the Popular Unity Coalition and the Socialist Party of Chile, but his noble work will remain engraved for ever in the hearts of the Chilean people and his friends all over the world. His courage and sacrifice is a shining example and a vigorous encouragement to the struggle for independence, freedom, peace, democracy and social progress in Chile, Latin America and in the world, against imperialism and neo colonialism headed by the US imperialists.

On behalf of the South Vietnamese people, the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, and in my own name, I extend to you Madame and to your family the expression of my profound bereavement.

South Viet Nam, September 15, 1973

Lawyer NGUYEN HUU THO

Chairman of the NFL CC Presidium and of the Advisory Council of the RSVN PRG

The same old NIXON DOCTRINE AGAIN

ON August 15, the US imperialists had to cease their savage bombing against Cambodia.

On August 20, the Lao ultra-rightist *coup d'état* against Prince Souvanna Phouma's government and for revision of the results of the consultations between the two Lao parties, pitifully failed.

On August 28, the United States and the Bangkok administration signed an agreement on the withdrawal of a number of GIs from Thailand, beginning from August 30.

And so on, and so forth.

These, and other related news, may create the impression that the United States had somehow cut down its involvement in this area, more especially on the military plane.

But it is only an illusion.

Since the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and the Vientiane Agreement on Laos, the US neo-colonialist policy with regard to the Indochinese countries has undergone no change. White House spokesmen, including the President himself, have time and again reaffirmed that, now as before, US policy in this part of the world remains the realization of the "Nixon doctrine." And, always according to its authors, this philosophy rests on three pillars: "US strength," "the sharing of responsibility," and "negotiations." The United States has always been relying on those three pillars, and any tactical change represents only a variation of their use suited to the new, changing conditions and the new relations of forces in the region.

The first pillar, or "US strength" is mainly represented in the field, after the forced withdrawal of hundreds of thousands of US ground troops, by the participation of the US air force. But US aviation, including its strategic section, has proved dismally ineffective against the impetuous advance of the Cambodian people and armed forces, as it had in Laos and in Viet Nam. In defiance of the support of more than 430 US bombers and fighters, the Lon Nol army was tightly surrounded and heavily decimated by their adversary who had won control over 80 percent of the territory when the United States was compelled to end its bombing. US air raids not only failed to achieve their ends, namely to blunt the liberation army's offensive, but they also entailed losses in human lives and dollars to their promoters and considerable political erosion both in the United States and the world. For the first time US Congress was able to enlist enough votes from senators and representatives to force Nixon to comply with its resolutions and fix a date for the ending of bombing (August 15, 1973) — something unprecedented in US history. Another serious phenomenon was the growth of the anti-war movement among the pilots — the *élite* of the US military. The Nixon administration was thus confronted with hard facts: since the resort to "US strength" was self-defeating, a change was badly needed. One is therefore justified to conclude that the Nixon administration's bombing cessation in Cambodia and its withdrawing on August 30 of a number of now-superfluous air force personnel and aircraft from the Nam Phong airbase in Thailand testified to no fundamental alteration of policy.

The second pillar, called "sharing of responsibility" by the Nixon doctrine, has been strengthened to make up for the forced downgraded use of the first pillar. This strengthening is apparent in two ways: *first*, the emergency increase of US military and economic aid to the Lon Nol clique, and *second*, US orders to the Saigon and Bangkok administrations to send mercenaries to the rescue of Phnom Penh. In spite of repeated denials by those two clients it is an open secret that mercenaries were dispatched secretly to Cambodia in the same way as they had been to Laos — all of them recruited, fed, trained and equipped by the CIA. US aggression was formerly conspicuous with the participation of the US air force; it is now somewhat disguised by the commitment of satellite troops.

In a broader sense, quite a number of methods which were directly applied by the United States to commit aggression are now transferred to client administrations in the region. This "sharing of responsibility" is prompted by reasons beyond the control of the Washington bosses: the juridically binding force of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and the Vientiane Agreement on Laos, mounting opposition in the United States, reverses and losses on the battlefield. This is true not only in military matters, but also in economic matters.

The third pillar of the Nixon doctrine — the so-called negotiation policy — is now being used most intensively, superficially to isolate and bring pressure to bear on anti-US forces in the three Indochinese countries, and in a deeper sense to split those forces. This is particularly transparent in the case of Cambodia.

The facts listed above, though not exhaustively, permit one to conclude that the Nixon administration is still doing its utmost to stem the people's drive for peace and independence in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia. Its neo-colonialist aggressive designs have not changed an iota. One may ponder on the following remarks of Mrs Nguyen Thi Binh, the PRG Foreign Minister, in an interview with an Algerian newspaper:

"Though in a losing and weakening position in Viet Nam in every respect, the US imperialists are still reluctant to renounce their objectives i. e. to crack down on, divide and rule over, other peoples in the world and to safeguard their privileges and positions. Under this global strategy, they are striving to re-deploy their military forces in Asia, strengthen their system of military bases in Thailand, Japan, the Philippines and a number of other places in Southeast Asia. They are stubbornly continuing their military involvement and intervention in South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos and resorting to the most brutal and craftiest means to achieve their ill-fated neo-colonialism and Nixon doctrine in this part of the world. They are putting up such deceptive ploys as the "era of negotiation," "peace," "regional neutralization"... to conceal their manoeuvres against the nations' independence, freedom, security and peace."

Do I deserve a Nobel prize?

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION